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By Karen Wilber at 8:11 am, Sep 09, 2022

**Town of Northborough
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
April 5, 2022**

In attendance: Faith Stevens (FS), Gary Maggiolino (GM), Scott Charpentier (SC), Tracey Cammarano (TC) Allie Lane (AL), Maegan Jordan (MJ), David Robillard (Robo), and Sean Durkin (SD).

6:36pm: February 1, 2021 Minutes Approved.

Faith Stevens (FS) made a motion to approve minutes from February 2022. Tracey Cammarano (TC) seconded, all in favor.

6:36pm: Meeting called to order

6:37pm—Recreation Report by Allie Lane (AL).

AL: Update on Spring/Summer Programs: Had to cancel the April Vacation program happening in Town Hall Gym due to low sign ups, however every other Spring and Summer program is doing well with sign ups. Still looking to hire Summer staff, have had some interviews but still need a few more people. All of the field rentals are booked for the season but the upper field at Ellsworth McAfee Park is currently closed for maintenance.

SC: What are they doing at the fields?

AL: They are trying to save the grass and are doing routine maintenance.

Northborough baseball has merged with Southborough and they are doing a lot of maintenance work on the fields they use including redoing the upper field at Peaslee Elementary School. The fields at Melican Middle School are almost all rented out. There was a delay in opening the middle school fields due to the weather.

6:43pm—DPW Report by Scott Charpentier (SC)

Update on Assabet Park: The rubberized surface at Assabet Park should be completed by May, weather dependent. Still pushing for a Memorial Day opening goal. \$20k was approved by ARPA for a new wall fence along the park, which is in progress. Had to order different trash barrels that are currently back ordered and will not be here until November, will use different trash barrels in the meantime.

Update on Pickleball Courts: The new loom is in. Will be closing the exit to Ellsworth McaFee temporarily while a new drain is being installed. \$18k was approved by ARPA for fencing and will also purchase new gates for the courts. Project is currently going forward successfully. Benches will be in around fall time, but courts will be operational in July.

AL: Pickleball courts will be open to the public.

SC: Will also need to get a sign for the rules and regulations to display.

There are capital projects with the school reconstruction of the basketball and tennis courts at Melican Middle School. Basketball courts will need asphalt to be removed and new gravel put down as well. Tennis courts are going to need to mill out the top pavement with a new surface, possibly adding dual lining on the courts for tennis and pickleball. Will look for funding in 2024 for the tennis courts.

6:49pm—New Business by Allie Lane (AL)

AL: The Selectmen's Meeting they discussed the creation of a new program called Be Well Northborough and are using \$100k from the ARPA funding that will allow the ability to put together programs to help locals with a focus on mental health and well-being. This was brought together by department heads from Recreation, Health Department, Police, Fire, Family and Youth Services, Northborough Senior Center/Council on Aging, Libraries and Schools.

Recreation came up with an event to have a town fair as a summer kick off for the last day of school at Ellsworth McAfee and will have carnival games, giveaways, and other fun events. The event will happen 1-4pm as schools will have a half-day, and is a great way to bring the community together. All events from Be Well Northborough will be free to the public.

Recreation is also putting on outdoor yoga and guided hiking groups through this initiative.

SC: These larger events will have tables set up with information and items for the community from some of the other departments. A good way for people to get to know what we do and that we are here.

Town Meeting: AL: The Monday after April Vacation, April 25th will be the Annual Town Meeting at Algonquin High School at 6pm. Northborough Recreation was self-sufficient, however last year it was funded by the general fund, they will be taking \$75k from the revolving account to the general fund and next year or the year after, should be back to being self-sufficient. This year was different because we cannot run a full 8 weeks of the Summer Program, and had to cancel a lot of the winter programs due to rising COVID cases.

SD: Any plans to add recreation to the municipal budget?

AL: Recreation became self-sufficient to avoid being cut from budgets. It helps keep things as affordable as possible to the public, and lets us focus on bigger programs that we can do bigger and better.

Appoint New Chair Person: AL: Need to appoint a new Chair Person for the Parks and Recreation Commission, need to vote as Faith will be stepping down.

TC: Motion to nominate Gary Maggiolino (GM) as new Chair Person and Faith Stevens (FS) to be Vice Chair in case of Chair Person's absence.

SD: Seconded to nominate Gary Maggiolino as new Chair Person and Faith Stevens as Vice Chair.

All in favor.

7:10pm – Other Business by Allie Lane (AL)

AL: Will be purchasing a therapeutic swing for Ellsworth McAfee after speaking with a resident whose adult son with disabilities really enjoys using one and asked if one can be installed in town. Put the swing on order and looking at 6-8 weeks for delivery.

7:15pm – Other Business by Tracey Cammarano (TC)

TC: Wanted to take a few minutes to talk about what we consider the geographics to be for downtown Northborough for the Master Plan Implementation Committee as we gather more information from people. What constitutes downtown Northborough?

FS: The Dunkin Donuts to the Town Library.

AL: Would say Assabett Park to Route 20.

SD: Include the Housing Authority on Hudson St, but would not include the Historical Society, that would be too far.

TC: Would you say CVS or Whitney Church is included in the downtown area?

AL: I think that would be too far back.

TC: Thank you all for your input.

7:25pm - Meeting adjured

Motion to adjourn – TC & GM